

Patent Claims

- 5 1. An immunohistological method to detect fibrogenesis in histological tissue sections comprising:

(a) antibodies directed against the C-terminal procollagen α_1 (III) propeptide and/or structurally related or homologous sequences

(b) bringing said antibodies into contact with the sample containing the antigen

(c) , detecting the formed antigen antibody complex

10 (d) determining the stained area qualitatively and/or quantitatively,

whereby the progression of fibrotic diseases can be predicted.

2. An immunohistochemical method according to claim 1 wherein fibrogenesis is visualized in histological sections of human tissues.

- 15 3. An immunohistochemical method according to claim 2 wherein fibrogenesis is visualized in histological sections of human livers.

4. An immunohistochemical method according to claim 1 wherein said method is used to diagnose and/or diagnostically monitor the course of fibrotic diseases.

5. An immunohistochemical method according to claim 1 wherein said method is used to
20 monitor antifibrotic therapies.

6. An immunohistochemical method according to claim 1 wherein said method is used to monitor therapies with recombinant C-terminal procollagen α_1 (III) propeptide.

7. An immunohistochemical method according to claim 1 wherein said monoclonal and/or polyclonal antibodies recognize an epitope within the more C-terminal part of C-terminal
25 procollagen α_1 (III) propeptide.

8. An immunohistochemical method according to claim 1 wherein said antibody is mAb 48D19.
9. An immunohistochemical method according to claim 1 wherein the detection of said antigen-antibody complex is carried out by directly labelling the directed antibody radioactively, by conjugation with an enzyme or a fluorogenic probe and/or with the aid of a secondary antibody.